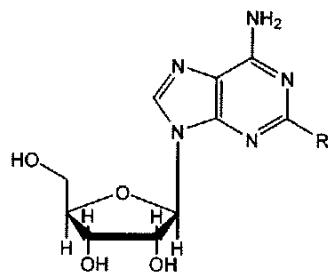


AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract at page 28 with the following amended abstract:

Improved Synthesis of 2-Substituted Adenosines

Synthesis of 2-substituted adenosines of formula I using 2-nitro pentabenzoyl adenosine, or 2-nitro pentaacetyl adenosine, as intermediate is described:



I

wherein R is as defined in the specification C₁₋₆ alkoxy (straight or branched), a phenoxy group (unsubstituted, or mono-, or di-substituted by halo, amino, CF₃-, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkoxy), a benzyloxy group (unsubstituted, or mono-, or di-substituted by halo, amino, CF₃-, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkoxy), or a benzoyl group (unsubstituted, or mono-, or di-substituted by halo, amino, CF₃-, cyano, nitro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkoxy). The methods include nitrating protected adenosines and reacting the resulting nitrated adenosine with a suitable nucleophile to provide improved yield and purity of product. Preparation of 2-nitro pentabenzoyl adenosine and 2-methoxyadenosine with >96% purity is described.